

PRESENCE OF MAXILLARY CANINE TEETH IN MULE DEER IN UTAH

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ABSTRACT.— A hunter-harvested adult female mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) was found to have canine teeth present along both rows of teeth of the maxillae.

The reported occurrence of erupted canine teeth in mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) has been observed in California (Nordquist 1941), Utah (Robinette 1958), and Colorado (Robinette et al. 1977). The Utah incident occurred in a three-year-old male having a single erupted canine in the right maxilla (Robinette 1958).

On 27 November 1982, a hunter-harvested 4-year-old female mule deer was checked and collected by me. She was killed near Indianola in the Little Clear Creek drainage in Utah County. The presence of upper max-

illary canine teeth on both sides was observed when the jaw was cut for field aging (Fig. 1). The head was removed from the carcass and, after cleaning and photographing, donated to the Brigham Young University Life Science Museum, Provo, Utah, Catalog no. 7225.

The following skull measurements were taken: total length 291 mm, condylobasal length 272 mm, zygomatic breadth 128 mm. Both maxillary canines are found posterior to the nasomaxillary suture identical to the position of canines found in elk (*Cervus canadensis*). Further measurements showed each

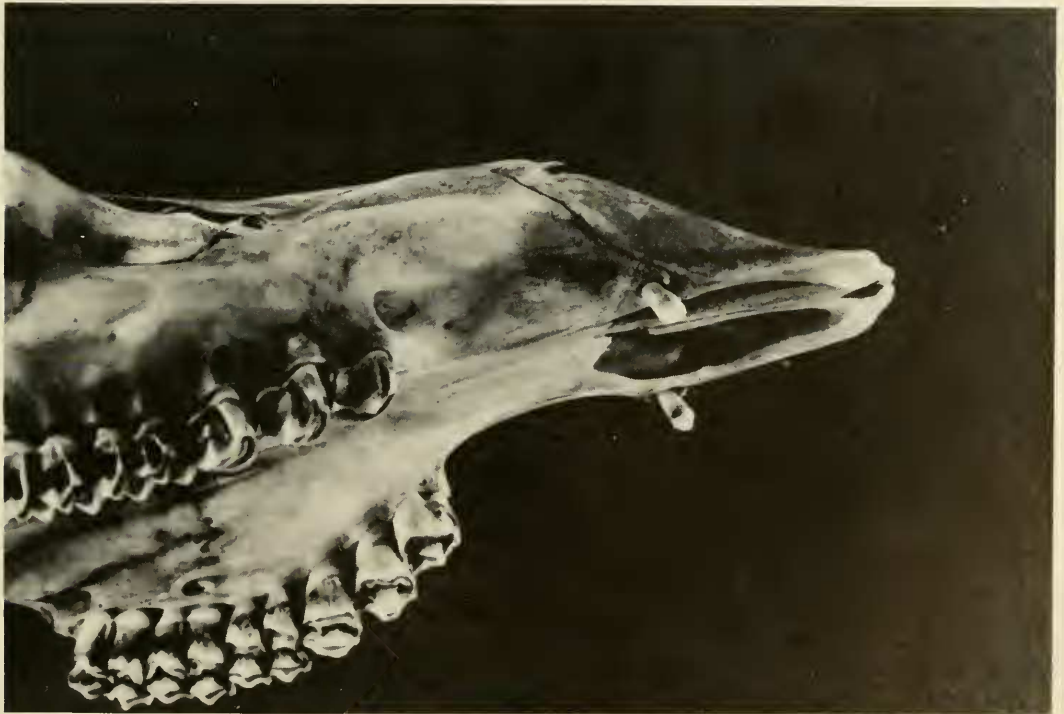


Fig. 1. Palatal view of a mule deer skull showing canine teeth on maxillae.

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canine is positioned 46 mm posterior of the anterior point of the premaxilla and 43 mm anterior of the premolar. Measurements of the left and right canine, respectively, are: length of outside (labial), exposed part, 9.2, 9.9 mm; anteroposterior diameter of crown, 4.9, 5.1 mm; labial lingual diameter of crown, 3.8, 4.0 mm.

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